

# Environmental APPROVALS

The Ministry of the Environment is transforming its environmental approvals program. It has worked closely with business, industry and other stakeholders to develop a registration process for standard and routine-type activities and sectors, specifically heating systems, standby power systems and automotive refinishing. On **October 31, 2011**, businesses will be able to register these activities in the **Environmental Activity and Sector Registry**.

Activities that are not subject to the registration process may instead be required to obtain an **Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)**.

**Note:** If, as of October 31, 2011, you have an existing Certificate of Approval (CofA), it will continue to apply and will be treated as an ECA after that date without any immediate action on your part.

## **Are there fees when applying for an Environmental Compliance Approval (ECA)?**

Yes. As before, you must pay a fee when submitting an application for an ECA. The application form will calculate it.

## **When do ECA fees take effect?**

The ECA fees take effect on October 31, 2011.

## **What is the difference between the Certificate of Approval fees and Environmental Compliance Approval fees?**

At this time, there is no difference. The fee is the same.

## **How do I determine the application fee that is required?**

The “Minister’s Requirement for Fees – Application Fees for Environmental Compliance Approvals under the Environmental Protection Act” outlines the fees that are established and required by the Minister of the Environment for ECA applications.

One improvement with the ECA application is that the online form will calculate the fee.

Generally, the application fee is calculated as follows: Application Fee = A + B + C + D

A = Administrative Processing Fee

B = Fee for EPA subsection 9(1) activity

C = Fee for EPA subsection 27(1) activity

D = Fee for OWRA subsection 53(1) activity

**Note:** If your application does not include a “B”, “C” and/or “D” activity, then you would not be charged for them.

## **Where do I send the application fee?**

You submit the required fee with your ECA application. Fees are payable to the Minister of Finance.

For a Transfer of Review project, you pay the fee to the municipality that is undertaking the review.

## **Are there any fees associated with ECA discretionary hearings?**

Before making a decision about an application, the ministry may refer all or part of an application to a discretionary hearing.

In these circumstances, where the Director requires a hearing, an application with an EPA subsection 27(1) activity or an OWRA subsection 53(1) activity requires a hearings fee of \$18,000.

The fee is payable before the hearing begins.

### Can I get a refund of my application fee?

You might receive a refund if you withdraw the application before a decision is made, or if your application is not approved.

The administrative processing portion of the fee is not refunded.

### Where can I get more information?

Visit: [www.ontario.ca/environmentalapprovals](http://www.ontario.ca/environmentalapprovals)

Call: 1-800-461-6290 or 416-314-8001